Welcome to the ninth edition of the School of Population Health Newsletter!

Our Newsletter encourages communication within the School. We aim to put an issue out every quarter and depend on you to support your Newsletter through interesting, informative and constructive contributions that we will all want to read. Huge thanks to everyone who has contributed so far, the response has been fantastic, and please keep items coming in.

Head of School’s message

Dear SPH colleagues

We are well into the year 2011 and much activity has occurred. The School cannot be given the tag of “dullsville” as there are many important developments and changes happening. Being in a state of constant change is becoming the norm and, whilst it brings new challenges and increased workload and budget pressures, we must all adapt and find different and more effective ways of working without compromising productively and quality and also while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

The UWA rating of 4 (above world standard) in field 1117 Public Health and Health Services in the recently released Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) puts UWA in the top 5 in Australia in this field. This is an excellent result for UWA and particularly for our School as the largest contributor to UWA’s research performance in this field. These ERA results were based on 2003-2008 publications and our publications output declined in 2009 so we should not be complacent. The quality and number of research publications is one of the main research performance indicators and of course publications remain the most important avenue for dissemination of research findings and influencing policy and practice. If you do not publish then few people will know you did the research and what you found. Please make publishing research findings very high priority.

The preparation and submission of research grant and fellowship applications continues in spite of the agonising NHMRC on-line research grants management system. My congratulations go to all applicants for their hard work not only in preparing the applications but also persevering with the system. SPH staff were involved as Chief Investigators in over 15 new project applications and I am aware of several fellowship applications as well. I am hoping the success rate this year is higher than usual. The School’s Category 1 (including NHMRC) research income peaked in 2007 and has been declining so we need to reverse this decline. The leaked possible reduction in Federal funding of NHMRC is a major concern so let’s hope that the protest actions have been successful and this does not go ahead.

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The Master of Nursing Science intake increased this year: a very encouraging sign for this relatively new course. We have also increased the nursing team with several new appointments already and two more starting mid-year, including the new Professor of Nursing, Desley Hegney, who will be leader of the nursing discipline and help guide the development and expansion of nursing coursework, research training and nursing research within the School and Faculty.

In addition to coordination and delivery of current coursework units, many of our teachers have also invested time in developing course and unit proposals for the new courses that will commence in 2012 and later. The suite of new undergraduate units associated with the population health major in the new BSc are all approved and the focus now is on publicity and marketing and getting first-year units ready for the first intake in 2012. There is also a lot of activity associated with changes to the postgraduate program in public health with the proposed introduction of various MPH (specialisation) courses and also a Master of Health Science which we hope to have introduced in 2013. Finally, this year is the last intake for the 6-year MBBS and plans for the design and development of the new 4-year MD for first intake in 2014 are gathering momentum. Helena Iredell is on the MD Curriculum Contents Committee that is overseeing this development and SPH will have a role in developing syllabus for the first 1.5 years and possibly other aspects.

Planning is well underway for the transfer of the discipline of Social Work and Social Policy into the School by the start of 2012. Several staff members and postgraduate students will join us at the end of 2011 and some recruitment will be needed to support the delivery of the Master of Social Work degree. Liz Geelhoed is Chair of the Transition Steering Committee overseeing the transfer and Peta Tilbrook is working on solutions for additional accommodation and facility requirements.

The Stakeholder Engagement Process coordinated by D’Arcy Holman was completed earlier this year and the Report has been distributed. It was extremely pleasing that a majority of staff in the School participated in this process and the Report contains a wealth of useful information. All staff, research groups and teachers are strongly encouraged to read and gain benefit from the report.

The seminar SPH program continues to be well organised by the PHPS (Louise Schreuders convenor) but attendance at seminars is sometimes disappointing. The Seminar series is an important part of academic exchange, a showcase of School research and an opportunity for research students to get wide feedback on their research proposals. This is our seminar program so we should all support it. Please enter the Tuesday slot in your diary and plan to come along and contribute.

It is pleasing to see the student societies (PHPS, HSA and HSS) continue to be active both in supporting and providing academic and social activities for their members but also in advocating for population health at this university and in supporting worthy community causes. Please support these societies by lending your help when needed and in attending their events. Upcoming events include the HSA Quiz Night on 17 May and the HSS Cocktail Party on 27 May.

Best wishes for a productive and successful 2011, and don’t forget to take recreation leave at suitable times throughout the year.

Matthew Knuiman
School Manager’s message

Hi Everyone,

2011 has got off to an interesting start with new people being installed, a big office reshuffle to make things a bit smoother and SPH’s official social butterfly, Di Valli, dropping in to spread gossip and cheer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience, good will and positive outlooks while times have been trying. Such an outlook makes everything possible – and makes SPH a fun place to work.

At the Head of School’s suggestion, due to additional demands on time and resources the Admin Office will be looking at ways to increase efficiency. This has already commenced with changes such as the assignment drop-box where students can leave their assessments (thanks to Jane H for the suggestion). The AO clears the box at 5pm but no longer needs to sign the cover sheets – which of course has led to at least one student dropping in an essay without including unit name/code/tutor/class/assignment title/identifying marks. There is hope, though, as they did get their name right.

The efficiency drive will, however, leave less time for extraneous requests so please exercise patience if we can’t process your request instantly with our usual lightning-fast reflexes.

Social Work and Social Policy are looking forward to this move so please make them feel very welcome. Their admin people will be joining our office (we are expecting the tardis to arrive in December) and one of their academics has already asked if SPH enjoys a drink – apparently Arts, not so much.

All up, I’m hoping this year will see good grants coming through, growth in our units and courses, seamless integration of new people and fields, and a culture of welcoming, collaboration and positivity – in other words, all I want for Easter is a Happy, Healthy School.

*Peta*

(ghost written by Fiona)

Happy (belated) Easter everyone!

My name is Zoe (Chung-hsing) Hu. I am a new student of Master of Nursing Science. Here is an artwork I made for the Chinese Year of Rabbit (I am Taiwanese) and also Easter.

“Peta”

(ghost written by Fiona)
Staff changes - New faces

There was a successful recruitment program conducted at the end of 2010 in order to increase our staffing in the field of nursing. I am pleased to introduce two new staff that join the nursing team in the School in January 2011. Please join us in making these new staff welcome.

Helene Metcalfe [RN, BA(Hons in Nursing Education), MSc (Health Sciences/Clinical Care), Dr Education] comes to the School with 10+ years of experience as a lecturer in nursing at ECU and London and well as several years experience as a staff nurse. She brings considerable experience and expertise in nursing education and also in education research.

David Stanley [RN, BNurs, MSc (health science) Dr Nurs.] comes to us with about a decade of experience as a university nursing academic as well as considerable experience as a nurse, midwife and manager. He has several publications in nursing education and clinical leadership and has a reputation as a motivating, passionate and innovate teacher.

Maggie Woloszyn has joined the CBEH team for the next 6 months as the Centre’s Research Manager and Billie’s PA. Maggie has a health science degree and a strong and varied project planning background, experience of working with external stakeholders; administrative experience gained from working at the Alcohol and Drug Authority; and research experience within the University (as a project coordinator of Justine’s Healthway ‘Tap Into Good Teeth’ research project). The interview panel was unanimous that Maggie would be an excellent addition to the team and were thrilled that she has accepted the role.

Hayley Haines commenced working with Anne McKenzie in January 2011. Hayley is from the UK and worked as a Patient and Public Involvement Officer at the South Central Research Design Service at Southampton University prior to coming to Perth in 2010. Hayley will be using her considerable skills and experience to support our consumer and community participation program at the School. Her role is jointly funded by the UWA Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

Hayley’s first task has been to work with Anne McKenzie on the development of a series of Consumer and Community Participation Fact Sheets. The Fact Sheets will be a web-based resource and have been created in direct response to requests from researchers for resources / tools to support the implementation of participation activities in their research.

Professor in Social Work coming August 2011

A key activity over the past 6 months associated with the transfer of Social Work and Social Policy to SPH has been the recruitment of a Winthrop Professor of Social Work and Social Policy to lead the discipline into the future. Donna Chung will be joining us in mid-August 2011 as Winthrop Professor of Social Work and Social Policy.

Donna Chung is currently based at Warwick University, UK, in the School of Health and Social Studies, where her teaching includes interpersonal violence, social work and health care and health policy and practice and where she is the Director of the Research and Education Unit on Gendered Violence. She has written widely and collaboratively on the topic of domestic and family violence and her most recent work is a jointly authored book titled “Domestic violence – working with men, Research, experience, practice and integrated experiences”.

Professor in Nursing coming July 2011

A new Winthrop Professor of Nursing (joint position between SPH and SCGH) has now been recruited and Professor Desley Hegney will join us in July 2011 and will provide leadership in the development of the nursing programs at UWA and SCGH.

Professor Hegney will be leaving her current position as Director of Research at The Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies at the National University of Singapore. She has broad interests including nurse-led models of chronic disease management, the transition from home to residential care in dementia, and rural nursing practice. Previous positions include Director of the Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre (University of Queensland), Director of the Centre for Rural and Remote Area Health (Queensland), and the Sister Elizabeth Kenny Chair in Rural and Remote Area Nursing (University of Southern Queensland). Desley is a Foundation editor of the Australian Journal of Rural Health and is currently an editorial board member for Nurse Researcher and the International electronic journal of rural and remote health.

Bon voyage and farewell to Billie

Winthrop Professor Billie Giles-Corti is leaving SPH and UWA in June 2011 to take up the position of Director of the McCaughey VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing at the University of Melbourne. Congratulations to Billie on this prestigious appointment.

Billie has been a UWA staff member since 1992, initially in the Graduate School of Management as Research Fellow in the Healthway-funded Health Promotion Development and Evaluation Program (HPDEP). Her affiliation with Public Health (PH) at UWA started in 1993 when she enrolled in a PhD (supervised by D’Arcy Holman and Rob Donovan) and she joined the Department of PH as a staff member in 1995 when HPDEP and her position were transferred to Public Health. In 1996 she
Congratulations - PhinisheD!

Dr Peter Buzzacott

Congratulations indeed to Dr Peter Buzzacott on the successful examination of his PhD thesis. Well done Dr Buzzacott! – your enthusiasm for your work has been infectious and it has been a pleasure to work with you.

Supervisors were Michael Rosenberg, Terri Pikora and Jane Heyworth.

Scholarship successes

APA Scholarships

On behalf of the School, I would like to congratulate the following winners of APA Scholarships.

Emily Atkins
(supervisors Liz Geelhoed and Tom Briffa)

Martin Hopkins
(supervisors Lisa Wood and Hayley Christian)

Maryam Mozooni
(supervisors David Preen and Adeleh Shirangi)

Cecily Strange
(supervisor Lisa Wood)

Joshua Vogel
(supervisor Matthew Knuiman).

Please join me in congratulating these students.

David Preen

WA Department of Health Nursing Scholarships

Congratulations to the winners of the DoH Nursing Scholarships

Dante Giacomin
Jennifer Lees
Susal Coates
Tom Coffey,
Tom also won a Roayl College of Nursing Australia Scholarship this semester.

James and Sith Annie Chesters Scholarship

Congratulations to the Nicholas Watts, winner of the James and Sith Annie Chesters Scholarship to assist with his Bachelor of Medical Science honours study.

New Director for CBEH

Professor Fiona Bull will take over the reins as (part-time) Director of CEBH from July 2011. Fiona currently holds a 0.6 FTE position in SPH and this additional role makes her full-time. Fiona is a UWA PhD graduate and held an NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Public Health at UWA before taking up the position of Research Scientist in the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Centers for Disease Control in the USA.

Immediately prior to re-joining SPH 18 months ago Fiona she held the position of Director of the BHF National Centre for Physical Activity and Health at Loughborough University in the UK. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of Fiona’s expertise and experience take over the leadership of CBEH and, together with the team of CBEH post-docs, other research staff, students and associated researchers, she will ensure the successful continuation of this important program.

Farewell and come back soon

Dr Tiew-Hwa (Katherine) Teng

Tiew-Hwa put on a lovely morning tea for the School prior to leaving to take up a post-doc in icy Canada. We wish her well and hope to see her back later this year for graduation!

Billie has many deep and long-standing personal and professional relationships with colleagues at UWA and other universities and organisations in WA and her departure in June 2011 will be a significant loss to SPH, UWA and WA. Billie will maintain a connection with SPH through continuing involvement with CBEH projects and students. A ‘farewell’ for Billie will be held in June.

Farewell and come back soon
SPH teachers rake in Teaching Awards

Several SPH staff featured in the list of nominations and winners of the Faculty Teaching Awards 2011:

- Jane Heyworth – Winner of Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning
- Helen Iredell – Winner of Individual Teaching Award (UWA Employee)
- Helen Iredell – High Commendation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning
- Anne McKenzie – Nominee for Individual Teaching Award (Sessional Teaching Staff)
- Rosemary Saunders and Olivia Hill – High Commendation for Team Teaching Award
- Anastasia Phillips – Nomination for Small Group Teaching (FCP) on Campus (ably impersonated by Matthew Knuiman in photo above)
- Anastasia Phillips – Winner for Early Career Teacher Award
- Olivia Hill – Nomination for Early Career Teacher Award
- Niyi Awofeso – Nomination for Excellence in Postgraduate Coursework Teaching

Three FCP staff (employed via other Schools) who work closely with Helena Iredell were also nominated or won an award (Cecily Strange, Anna Parker and Karen Moore)

In addition, our very own Jane Heyworth has been nominated by UWA for the 2011 Australian Teaching and Learning Council Award for teaching excellence in the category of Biological Science, Health and Related Studies.

The large proportion of nominations and winners from SPH is testimony to the strong value that SPH puts on high standards in teaching and to the high quality of its teaching staff.

Inaugural Ray James Memorial Lecture

Congratulations to Billie for the excellent presentation given at the AGM of the Australian Health Promotion Association (WA) on 9 February.

Billie gave the Inaugural Ray James Memorial Lecture and chose to reflect the personal qualities and professional interests well known in Ray James - a leading figure in public health/health promotion in WA for almost 20 years.

Combining the urgent agendas of population growth, urban sprawl and climate change with the need to build communities that build social health, connectedness and inclusive societies, the lecture was a truly inspiring tribute to Ray and a set out a provocative challenge for how we develop Perth and the future for public health. Well done Billie.

By Fiona Bull

Hot’ Paper

Dear Colleagues

Please join me in congratulating Fiona who was invited to a University function on April 11 hosted by the Vice Chancellor to celebrate UWA academics with recently published ‘hot’ papers (ie highly cited).

Essential Science Indicators categorises each of the 9000 journals they index into 22 broad disciplines. Articles in each discipline are then ranked by number of citations, and the top 1% for each year are placed in the Highly Cited List.

Fiona’s paper ‘The International Prevalence Study on Physical Activity: results from 20 countries’ in the International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity was in the top 1% of cited papers in the ‘Agricultural Sciences’ discipline http://esi.isiknowledge.com/percentilespage.cgi (There is no public health sciences discipline.)

This paper was a lot of hard work over many years so you can imagine how pleased Fiona is to be recognised for this achievement.

By Matthew
Consumer and Community Participation Program at SPH

The Consumer and Community Advisory Council have much pleasure in announcing D’Arcy Holman as the inaugural recipient of the Consumer and Community Participation Award for 2010. The award was presented at a SPH whole-of-school meeting by Barbara Daniels, Chairperson of the Consumer and Community Advisory Council (photo below).

The Council acknowledged D’Arcy’s outstanding commitment to increasing consumer and community participation in health and medical research in WA through his ongoing support of initiatives such as:

• Establishing and funding a dedicated Consumer Advocate position at the UWA School of Population Health for over 12 years. This was the first position of its kind in Australia and remains a ‘one of a kind’ role in research organisations throughout Australia.

• The establishment of the first university-affiliated Consumer and Community Advisory Council.

• Providing financial support and mentoring to enable the development of an international collaboration with UK experts.

• Leading by example, modelling good consumer participation practice in his research projects.

• Ongoing support and mentoring for many new initiatives in consumer and community participation including:
  - training workshop programs for consumers and researchers;
  - publication of the ‘green book’ guide for researchers (need a copy? See Annel!); and
  - the inaugural symposium Involving People in Research.

The Council considered that D’Arcy not only demonstrated excellence in fulfilling all criteria of the Consumer and Community Participation Award but he has been a true leader in developing consumer participation in research within Western Australia and made an exceptionally worthy inaugural recipient of the award.

By Anne

Confident Placements: A Mental Health Workplace Training Program

Nursing student Dante Giocomin contributed to the launch of the “Confident Placements: A Mental Health Workplace Training program” on 15 February.

Dante shared his experience of the training program with the audience, including representatives from the HDWA; Minister for Mental Health’s representatives; Heads of Nursing from the universities in Perth; key industry Mental Health leaders; staff from The Marian Centre, and representatives from the Department of Health and Ageing- Canberra office. His speech emphasised the value of the project and the importance of clinical practicum preparation, providing clear positive feedback about the program. Dante is an excellent ambassador for the UWA Master of Nursing Science course.

We look forward to the article and the photo’s in the “Western Nurse” journal.

By Rosemary

New Reward and Recognition Convenor

Prof Billie Giles-Corti has been the Convenor of the School “Reward and Recognition Scheme” for the last few years. This scheme is important in terms of building “social capital” within the school and also in recognising and rewarding efforts that are valued by others and demonstrate good behaviour and performance. The scheme includes the popular “Fun Awards” as well as a variety of other prizes and awards. Billie has now stepped down from this role. Please join me in thanking Billie who has done an excellent job in promoting, running and developing this scheme over the last few years.

The new Convenor of the “Reward and Recognition Scheme” is Ania Stasinska. I am grateful to Ania for taking on this role and I am confident that she will also do an excellent job. Please support Ania in this role by not only demonstrating good behaviour and performance yourself to increase your own chances of an award/prize but also in taking the time and effort to nominate others who are deserving of awards.

By Matthew

A note from the new RRC

The SPH Fun Awards are off to a fantastic start for 2011 with well deserved awards going to Margaret Mathews, Helena Iredell, Sandra Louise and Andrea Nathan at the first Whole of School Meeting.

The purpose of the fun awards is to recognize and reward staff for recent effort and achievement that is valued by us and the School! Please keep in mind these awards and don’t forget to nominate staff or research students who you think are outstanding for the next round of awards.

By Ania
Global Advocacy for Physical Activity

The Global Advocacy for Physical Activity is a Global Initiative for which our own Fiona Bull is Chair.

The GAPA 2010 Newsletter is available at www.globalpa.org.uk, providing an update on the activities of GAPA as well as news from across the regions. It gives a very nice summary of what has been a highly successful year for GAPA … and also a great example of global mobilization around an important issue. It also provides a good overview of Global (GAPA) priorities for 2011 – including linking physical activity with the United Nations focus on NCD Prevention (and their forthcoming summit in September 2011), the WHO Movement for Health in All Policies and related research and guideline developments.

Fiona has been front and centre of these important global initiatives (along with Trevor Shilton from the Heart Foundation who is Deputy Chair) – a huge effort – congratulations to Fiona and Trevor!

By Billie

American Society of Anesthesiologists ASM

David Preen and I recently finished a study of head weight in surgical patients that has been presented at the American Society of Anesthesiologists ASM in San Diego, October 2010. The conclusion of the study was that head weight is significantly influenced by age, sex and level of obesity. This has implications for airway management in clinical settings, and further research is required.

The interesting thing to me was that someone from the International Standards Organisation spoke to me afterwards and said that they had been looking for any studies on average head weight so that they can draft standards on respiratory equipment for ICU.

Richard Riley

UWA Staff Win Annual Staff Students Cricket Match

The annual VC Staff XI v Guild Presidents XI cricket match was hosted at James Oval recently with victory to the UWA Staff team once again.

Brilliantly led by Jack Bryant, Luke Cooney top scored with 47 and Jack added 13 in the VC XI total of 137. Best for the Guild Students bowling was Greg with 2/17 and Tim 2/16. Defending a modest total the UWA Staff bowled tightly and fielded superbly to take their catches and hold the students to 81 with James Matkovich top scoring with 27 and Greg 17. Best bowling was from Rick Wolters with 3/8 and Rhett Brennan 2/4.

Since 2001 the Vice Chancellor's Staff XI has won this match 7 times.

Rhett Brennan

Epi of Extreme Sports

Two SPH researchers have been invited to write chapters for a new volume in Karger Publisher’s internationally recognized book series, Medicine and Sport Science, titled “Epidemiology of Injury in Adventure and Extreme Sports.”

This volume will be the first state-of-the-art review of the epidemiology of injury in adventure and extreme sports.” Terri Pikora’s chapter will include kite surfing, jet skiing and monster wave surfing. Peter Buzzacott is the lead author for a chapter on scuba diving.

This is a quite a coup for both researchers and for the School in that they have been recognised for their work in the area of water sport injuries. Congratulations to both!
Teaching news

New Courses 2012

Colleen Fisher has been leading the development of a suite of new postgraduate courses to be offered as part of New Course 2012. SPH had 5 new Master of Public Health (Specialisation) courses approved through Phase 1 of the process and were required to submit full proposals in a Phase 2 process for those we plan to offer in 2012 by April 21. We plan to offer 3 of these 5 specialisations in 2012: MPH (Practice) by Coursework; MPH (Practice) by Coursework and Dissertation; MPH (Research Methods).

Within this tight time frame there has been a huge amount of paperwork required, including rewriting of rules, new detailed course proposals, unit proposals and matrices linking course and unit objectives to assessment. Last Friday (April 15) the School submitted all the paperwork. It has been a massive task but thanks to all the teaching staff who contributed to this process and to Colleen in particular for leading and taking on the bulk of the load.

The School is also considering a Masters of Health Science in which students will be able to combine a science specialisation with a public health specialisation. This proposal has been favourably received by the Faculty of Life and Physical Science and we are having follow-up discussions with Schools within FLAPS.

Inaugural Cohort of Master of Nursing Science

Our first cohort of Master of Nursing Science students will complete their course requirements in July 2011. Congratulations to these students and to the Academics in the nursing program for reaching this important milestone.

CAPHIA

With the demise of PHERP, the Australian Network of Academic Public Health Institutions has been replaced by the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australia (CAPHIA). Professor Liz Geelhoed is the SPH representative on this Council and recently she attended the inaugural meeting of CAPHIA in March.

The aims of CAPHIA are to:
- maintain high quality academic standards in the education and development of public health practitioners and researchers;
- to lead and represent public health in tertiary academic institutions that offer programs and research and community service activity in public health throughout Australia and education in the tertiary sector; and
- to be a respected voice and advocate for the development of public health professionals and researchers within Australia.

CAPHIA has already been active in lobbying the government in cuts to NHMRC funding.

Congratulations to student prize winners

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences prize winners ceremony was held on the evening of April 12. A number of our students were awarded prizes for academic performance or citizenship in 2010 and it was lovely to celebrate these achievements with students and their families.

From the Health Science degree: Amy Mitchell won SPH Prize for Excellence in Public Health for the best performance in the first and second year population health units; Saifuddin Essajee won SPH prize for Excellence in Public Health for the best performance in the popula-
Active Living Research Conference

In February, Professor Billie Giles-Corti and I attended the 8th Active Living Research Conference in San Diego, California. The conference was held at the Hard Rock Hotel, which seemed an ‘interesting’ choice at first, but ended up being a wonderful venue with the music connection inspiring the awesome guitar-shaped USB drives delegates received. The conference theme recognised the importance of strong partnerships among researchers, policy makers and community stakeholders for identifying and implementing policy or environmental approaches for increasing physical activity. The program included various breakfast roundtable discussions, plenary and concurrent presentations, poster sessions, and learning workshops. It was really good to hear and learn about the new technologies being used to better measure the environment and physical activity, and to see just how fast the field is progressing in this regard. Since the conference was about active living after all, the program also included extended physical activity breaks, a dance event, and ‘active applause’ - where you stand up to clap and acknowledge all speakers.

The time in San Diego also coincided with the 1st International PALMS Users Conference. PALMS - Physical Activity and Location Measurement System - is a novel system that allows physical activity data collected by accelerometers and location data collected by GPS data loggers to be combined and analysed simultaneously. About 20 people attended, and Billie and I presented some work done at CBEH by Sandra Nijenstein (visiting student from Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands) and Dr Bryan Boruff (UWA School of Earth and Environment) using combined data that was processed by PALMS. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and experiences, and to help advance this new and exciting field of research.

I also spent a week at the University of California, San Diego working with Dr Jacqueline Kerr on the Multilevel Intervention for Positive Ageing in Retirement Communities (MIPARC) study and had the chance to visit and see some retirement communities.

The trip wasn’t just work - I spent time holidaying in New York, Boston and Washington DC, and returned home with 11 new pairs of shoes. :)
Adventures in China

Professor D’Arcy Holman had a successful visit to China in March 2011. Some activities of his visit are highlighted below:

The Lu Cha Sino-Australian Research Collaboration nurtured in the development of the green tea project (see map below). The current project has progressed as planned and 4463 participants (75%) have been recruited and 17,947 (19%) lab tests were completed.

D’Arcy presented his invited lecture at Zhejiang University, Wuhan University and Zhejiang Cancer Hospital. D’Arcy discussed modern epidemiology in mainland China. Approximately 200 professors, researchers, clinicians, and postgraduates attending the lecture.

Initial contact with Prof Jie Jin, Head of Haematology Department of the first Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University (one of the top five haematology departments in China), seeking potential collaborative research in the clinical trial of green tea polyphenols in myeloproliferative disorders.

D’Arcy met with the new Director of Zhejiang Cancer Hospital, Prof Weiming Mao. Prof Mao expressed his intention to enhance research collaboration with the School of Population Health in cancer prevention.

by Min Zhang
PHPS update

Population Health Postgraduate Society: If you are a postgrad student at SPH you are automatically a member!

PHPS Student Forums

The PHPS held postgraduate student forums throughout April, seeking feedback about support for students within the School. This was a great opportunity and we had some productive sessions, so thanks to everyone who got involved. The PHPS Committee will be putting together a report for the School, voicing student opinions on how the great support currently offered can be continued, areas that could be improved and how the PHPS can work with the School to develop these areas.

Travel Awards

The PHPS Travel Awards for Semester 1 winners will be announced at the Cocktail Party. The award is for $500 towards conference travel and further details are available on the PHPS website.

AEA Workshop Bursaries

Winthrop Professor D’Arcy Holman has generously offered to provide ten bursaries for PHPS members to attend his workshop component of the Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) Annual Conference. The conference and workshop will be held in Perth in September 2011 and this is a fabulous opportunity for SPH postgraduate students. Application details are available on the PHPS website and close Friday 20th May. The PHPS would also encourage supervisors to support their students to attend the AEA conference while it’s being held in Perth!

PSA Quiz Night

The PSA are holding their annual quiz night again in the second week of May and it promises to be a great night, with tickets selling out in 2 hours last year! Details are yet to be announced but please contact the PHPS if you would like to get together on a PHPS table!

PHPS Courtyard BBQ

The first PHPS Courtyard BBQ for 2011 was held in April and had a great turnout. Thanks to all staff and students who came along and made it a great event!
Thanks also to Emily Atkins for her highly sought after biscotti recipe!

Biscotti

- 250g plain flour (plus extra if the mixture is too wet)
- 150g caster sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 200g whole blanched almonds
- 150g chocolate, chopped (I use Old Gold 70%)
- 3 eggs

Preheat oven to 180℃. Put flour, sugar, baking powder, almonds, and chocolate in a bowl and mix. Add eggs and stir until it comes together. Sprinkle with extra flour if the dough is too wet. Then shape into two logs on a lined baking tray. Bake for 20 minutes or until cooked through and very lightly golden. Remove from oven and allow them to cool enough to handle. Transfer to a chopping board and slice thinly (I use an electric knife). Place the biscuits back on the tray (you may need a second one) then bake for another 10 minutes, flip the biscuits and cook for another 5 minutes. Allow to cool completely before storing. These should keep for up to 10 days in an airtight container (but they usually get eaten before then!).

Other suggested combinations: 100g crystallised ginger and 125g Brazil nuts, or 150g pistachio nuts and 150g chocolate

From: “Cookies!” by Pippa Cuthbert and Lindsay Cameron Wilson

HSS update

“What is Population Health?” photo collage competition

Take part in the HSS/SPH photo collage competition!

Make a collage or just enter a single photo illustrating what Population Health is.

Email it in with the model release and IP forms.

Come to the Cocktail Party to see if you’ve won.

Easy!

HSS Cocktail Party

The HSS Cocktail Party will take the place of the Ball this year so don’t forget to purchase your tickets to the premier social event for the year!

Friday 27 May 2011
7-10.30pm
Cullity Art Gallery
Dress: Cocktail
$25pp including food and drinks

The Excellence in Teaching/Student Support Award and Health Science Community Achievement Award will be presented on the night and the ‘What is Population Health, Photo Collage Competition’ will also be revealed with entries displayed on the night!
HSA update

HSA Quiz Night

The Health Science Alumni Charity Quiz Night is less than 2 weeks away!

Time is running out to secure your table for some good fun and the chance to raise funds for SANE Australia—working for a better life for people with mental illness.

We have some spare spots available on some tables if you are struggling to get enough people together!

Check out the SANE Factsheet for Depression at http://www.sane.org/images/stories/information/factsheets/1007_info_7adepression.pdf

You will find other Factsheets and tips for mental health at the SANE website.

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**Quiz Night!**

tuesday 17th may, 2011
6.30pm for 7.00pm start
charles hotel, north perth
book your table of 8 now!
contact hsa@phu.wa.edu.au
for tickets or buy online

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**SANE Australia**

SANE is an independent charity receiving no ongoing government funding and relying on the community for support.

SANE has helped thousands of people with their concerns about mental illness. In that time we have built a strong reputation in Australia.

SANE's website provides information, advice and referrals to people with mental illness or their family members.

8800 18 SANE (7245) is Australia's only specialist national Psychosocial Helping for people concerned about mental illness. This professional, confidential service provides information, advice and referrals to people with mental illness or their family members.
Social Committee

St Patrick’s Day morning tea

Top o’ the morning to you all,
Your resident leprechauns would like to say thank you to those of you that turned up for our St Patrick’s morning tea, wearing green and donating to the Warnum flood appeal.

Thank you to all that provided the yummy green treats, they were delicious, to be sure, to be sure. :-)

Cheers
Leprechaun Georgie

Coming soon - UWA’s biggest morning tea

SPH is teaming up with the crew on main campus to help make this the BIGGEST!

All over the country, people gather for Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea during May, to raise money for cancer research.

Cindi Dunjey, from the Centre for Exploration Targeting, hopes UWA can hold one of the biggest fundraisers in Perth.

She organised a morning tea last year in memory of one of her colleagues in the School of Earth and Environment, Janet King, who died just days earlier. More than $1,000 was raised and this year Cindi wants to do even better.

“We’re planning to hold a whole-university morning tea in the Undercroft or, if it’s nice weather, on the lawn on the south side of Winthrop Hall,” she said.”I hope that other UWA staff who had been thinking about holding morning teas will join with us to make one really big event. It would be great to see hundreds of people sharing a cuppa for a great cause.”

UWA’s Biggest Morning Tea is likely to be on either Tuesday May 24 or Wednesday May 25 and $5 tickets will be on sale at SPH Admin for a few weeks before that - so you only have to go to main campus once.

If you would like to help Cindi by either offering to provide muffins or biscuits, or helping to sell tickets next month, please contact her on 6488 2640 or at cindi.dunjey@uwa.edu.au

Donations of tea or coffee or offers of help on the day would also be appreciated.

Watch out for more information, including confirmation of the date, in the next issue of UWAnews.

Youtube du jour

Extreme Swan Lake

http://www.nzwide.com/swanlake.htm

Enjoy watching Swan Lake performed as you have never seen it before.
Congratulations CBEH
Bridget and Bryan complete the team
CBEH now has its netball team complete, with the birth of Bridget and Bryan’s beautiful daughter. 3.71 kg and 50 cm long, this little girl was obviously determined to be seen by her parents as an Aussie, arriving 10 days late on Australia Day! Congratulations to Bridget and Bryan.
By Billie

Netball team complete, CBEH now building new team - sport TBA
Zara arrived at 3050g. She popped out quickly - at least I thought it was quick. Both mum and bub are fine!
Anyway, my leave officially starts today; which is great timing. I’ll send photos etc when I get a chance. (As I type this Kalel has climbed onto the table and is trying to get onto the window sill.)

Please forward this note to everyone…. and expect more to come (i.e. emails not babies)
By Gavin and Elizabeth

CBEH baby photos du jour
Below: Karen Martin, Lisa Wood and baby Cooper (Jacinta Francis’ baby);
Below bottom: Sarah French and baby Jackson (Gina Trapp’s baby);

Happy engagement
Long-time employee and current PhD student Christina Mills is getting engaged and is “wearing an interim engagement ring made out of computer parts”. Guys, this wouldn’t work for anyone other girl. Excellent work, Christina and Tim!

Update on Di Valli - SPH’s own social butterfly
Di has now completed 8 of her 12 chemo sessions. Her eyes are firmly fixed on the finishing line and she says the ‘bad days make you really appreciate the good days’. Di enjoys her visits to SPH and after disappearing for a couple of hours and visiting everyone, comes back with ‘you would not believe how much those people can talk!’. Of course, it’s not her…

Di would like to thank everyone for their support. She says that she either has chemo brain or was feeling really positive so she attended the cancer council’s look good feel gorgeous makeup and hair session… she provides evidence below.
Our people in the news

Notre Dame helps head start in Mental Health

16 March 2011

A program created for student health professionals to prepare them in mental health care has seen a unique collaboration between health care and tertiary education providers in Western Australia.

In mid November 2009, the Increased Clinical Training Capacity (ICTC) Program was offered by the Department of Health and Ageing to provide one-off immediate relief to clinical training capacity constraints for entry level health professionals. The Marian Centre, a stand-alone private psychiatric service, successfully tendered and won a Federal Government grant under this initiative.

The program they developed is designed to prepare students to enter their mental health clinical practice with more confidence and encourage a positive experience. This innovation has resulted in a first for Western Australia where all five universities have collaborated on providing a mental health education program in conjunction with the Marian Centre.

Dean of Notre Dame’s School of Nursing, Fremantle, Professor Selma Alliex represented the University at the launch. Professor Alliex said that it was a significant occasion as the Fremantle School of Nursing had been working closely with the Marian Centre since their successful submission in 2010 for the Health Workforce Australia’s Innovative Clinical Teaching and Training Grant.

“The project’s aim was to develop and implement a mental health training package that would be interdisciplinary. Notre Dame was the first university to offer its nursing students for the trial with the other four universities then invited to participate.

Notre Dame Masters of Counselling student and program facilitator, Ms Ailda Cubbage, said if students were better prepared for their rotation they would be more likely to have a positive experience and consider working in mental health as a career.

“The aim of the program is to positively promote mental health and the satisfaction that can be gained working in this specialised area, with its own unique challenges and rewards.

“As the prevalence of mental illness grows, for example one in four people have been diagnosed with some form of mental illness; the area of service need also grows. One may ask ‘Who will be there to care?’” questioned Ms Cubbage.

The program has the full support from the Commissioner of Mental Health, who identified these types of programs as a positive move in delivering care in the mental health sector.


Lunches for learning

The West Australian, Health & Medicine, page 5, Child health, nutrition

As well as keeping young bodies healthy, research now shows that physical activity can boost classroom performance. A review of research into physical activity and its impact on learning by University of WA researcher Karen Martin has revealed the benefits. Exercise has also been proved to help with a child’s planning, concentration and ability to stay on-task in the classroom and is also linked to increased self-esteem, less absenteeism and more attention to homework. The benefits are both immediate and long-term… In general, kids who are fitter do better academically. For good health the guidelines prescribe 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity every day for children. Half of all Australian children are not achieving this and only 10 per cent of secondary school girls meet the minimum requirements for daily physical activity. Children shouldn’t spend more than two hours a day watching electronic media such as TVs and computers — a guideline three-quarters of our children now exceed.

Study finds pharmacists not referring patients to GPs

MEDIA STATEMENT Friday, March 4, 2011

A study to assess the ability of community pharmacists to recognise and medically refer patients with a chronic cough has found that only a third of pharmacists provided appropriate medical referral.

The University of Western Australia study, published online this month in Annals of Pharmacotherapy, sent researchers to 155 Perth pharmacies, instructing them to present as patients with symptoms of chronic cough who required a referral.

When asked, the patients described the cough as dry, occurring mainly at night and present for “a couple of months or so”. In this scenario, the patient’s cough was due to worsening asthma and they needed to be referred to a medical practitioner.

Researcher Carl Schneider, a PhD student under the supervision of Associate Professor Rhonda Clifford, from UWA’s School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences, said community pharmacies were at the forefront of primary care providers and had an important role in the referral of patients to a medical practitioner for review when necessary.

“Chronic cough is a common disorder in the community, but it can be a sign of a more serious condition such as asthma or gastric reflux and it requires medical assessment. Until we did this study we had no evidence of the proficiency of community pharmacy staff to refer patients with chronic cough,” Mr Schneider said.

“Disappointingly, a large number of pharmacies (72 per cent) provided
the patients with a cough suppressant, while advice to see the doctor was provided in less than half (38 per cent) of the visits. “A medical referral was more likely when the patient was asked appropriate questions, such as medical history, and where a qualified pharmacist assessed the patient.”

The researchers recommended the development of guidelines designed in partnership with medical practitioners and consumers to standardise practice. “It is hoped that these guidelines will improve the rate of appropriate referral to medical practitioners and build closer ties with primary care providers to produce better outcomes for patients,” Mr Schneider said.

The study is part of a larger project by researchers at UWA to improve the practice of community pharmacists in Western Australia and, as a result, improve patient care in the primary care setting.

Resuscitation update

ABC North West WA (Karratha)
Statewide Drive - 16/03/2011 - 03:27 PM

Professor Ian Jacobs, University of Western Australia, School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health, joins Nicholls on the phone. Jacobs says resuscitation guidelines changes quite often, the outcomes of resuscitation are still very poor and more research is needed. Less than half of people who have cardiac arrests receive any resuscitation before an ambulance arrives.

Radio National (National Australia)
Life Matters - 05/04/2011 - 09:17 AM

National guidelines on resuscitation have been revised. The Australian Resuscitation Council's Spark of Life conference is underway. Interview with Ian Jacobs, Winthrop Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of WA, who explains that they aim to improve outcomes from cardiac arrest. He says that any attempt at revival with chest compressions is better than nothing. Jacobs explains how to do CPR, Aedy agreeing that everyone should be taught it at school. Jacobs is not sure how many people have been trained as St. John, Red Cross and Royal Lifesaving teach thousands of people a year.

Neglect blamed for Wheatbelt road toll

The West Australian, News, page 7, Road safety

The Road Safety Council says the lack of safety measures on Wheatbelt roads has resulted in the region recording the highest rate of car crash deaths in WA. Visiting the region yesterday, council chairman D'Arcy Holman said the southern Wheatbelt — which includes the towns of Wickepin, Narrogin and Quairading — needed more done to improve road safety. “The death rate is about four times higher than metropolitan Perth,” Professor Holman said. “A vast majority of the problem is caused by single vehicle run-off-the-road crashes.”
Prolapse surgery for one in five women

BY SARAH COLYER
PELVIC organ prolapse is more prevalent than previously estimated, with research finding almost one in five women require surgery for the condition in their lifetime.

The lifetime risk of pelvic organ prolapse surgery for Australian women was 19% by age 85, researchers found, based on surgery rates in WA between 2001 and 2005.

This rate was considerably higher than the 11-12% previously reported in a US study, leading the authors to conclude the burden of genital prolapse in the general population was higher than previously thought.

“Unquestionably, the burden of disease is even greater when considering the percentage of sufferers who never present for medical or surgical treatment,” they wrote in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The study found prolapse surgery rates were even higher in earlier times, with a lifetime risk of 20.5% in 1981-85, and 21.1% in 1991-95.

The authors from the University of WA’s school of population health suggested this might have reflected higher fertility rates in earlier years, and more vaginal births.

However, they said the rising prevalence of obesity and a recent upward trend in fertility rates could reverse this downward trend.

“Understanding the complex aetiology of this condition remains an important priority for urogynaecology researchers, and prevention efforts need a greater evidence base if they are to be successful in reducing the disease burden for what appears to be a high percentage of sufferers,” they wrote.

Professor Andrew Korda, gynaecologist and urogynaecologist at Sydney’s Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, said pelvic organ prolapse was more common than often thought, and was particularly a problem among overweight women.

“Surgery can cure about 80% of patients, however it is most likely to be effective when performed early,” he said.

As many patients would not talk with their GP about prolapse unless it was very uncomfortable, he suggested GPs routinely ask women over the age of 40 if they had any bladder or bowel symptoms.

Women who wanted to reduce their risk of prolapse should be advised to stay fit, maintain a healthy weight and do pelvic floor exercises, he said, adding that caesarean section was also likely to be protective.


Reuters article on the paper.
One in five women may need pelvic disorder surgery:

By Amy Norton

NEW YORK | Tue Nov 9, 2010 12:43pm EST

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - A woman’s lifetime odds of undergoing surgery for a disorder known as pelvic organ prolapse may be higher than experts have believed - closer to 1 in 5, rather than 1 in 10 -- a new study suggests.
Unplugging the bottlenecks of care for cancer patients

Campaigns to help raise awareness of cancer symptoms are being developed in a bid to help reduce delays in diagnosis of rural cancer patients.

The campaigns will be rolled out in several regions in rural WA later this year. They will cover the four most common cancers: lung, breast, colorectal and prostate.

New services aimed at improving access to cancer diagnostics will also be developed. The initiatives are part of an intervention trial aimed at reducing delays in treatment for rural cancer patients, thereby hopefully improving survival rates and other outcomes.

The Rural Cancer Partnership Project involves the Faculty, Cancer Council WA, WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network and the WA Health Department.

The five-year project has attracted almost $2 million in funding, including a grant of more than $1.2 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council - one of the largest grants in Australia.

Winthrop Professor Jan Emery, Head of the School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care, Winthrop Professor D’Arcy Horn, Chair in Public Health in the School of Population Health and Winthrop Professor Christine Saunders, Deputy Head of the School of Surgery, are leading the project.

The development phase of the project was completed recently and the next phase will be a randomised controlled trial (RCT), which will begin later this year.

Professor Emery said the aim of the development phase was to pinpoint the bottlenecks in a patient’s journey from developing symptoms to receiving treatment.

Continued page 13

God’s Commandments: the 1st draft

It’s good. I like it...but I knew these people.

God’s Commandments: the 1st draft

They’re gonna write specifics?

You know, Dad, I don’t think we’re in the control group this time.

Unplugging the bottlenecks of care for cancer patients

There were also problems accessing diagnostic investigations for some types of cancer.

For example, there were sometimes long delays between the GP referral and the transrectal ultrasound (TRUS) biopsy for patients suspected of having prostate cancer.

There were also delays in accessing colonoscopies for some patients later found to have colorectal cancer.

"There was a much shorter diagnostic interval from a breast lump to final diagnosis," Professor Emery said. This was possibly because of the "one-stop clinics" for breast cancer assessment, he said.

The researchers are discussing new service models with the WA Health Department and WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network to streamline services providing TRUS biopsies for rural patients suspected of having prostate cancer, and to improve access to colonoscopies for those patients who are most likely to have bowel cancer.

In the RCT, specific regions in WA will receive the community intervention to raise awareness about specific cancer symptoms while other regions will act as the control community. Half of the general practices in the test areas will receive additional evidence-based information on cancer-related symptoms and new diagnostic services and half will continue with standard practice.

"We will monitor patients and measure symptoms appraisal and diagnostic internals," Professor Emery said.

The aim is to capture data on more than 600 patients over two years of the intervention.
Funding Grant a Big Boost for Young Researcher

March 21, 2011

Young Northbridge resident Jennifer Girschik is one of the winners in this year’s annual Cancer Council Western Australia research grants.

The grant is part of $2.1 million in research funding announced by the Cancer Council at a lunch sponsored by the Parmelia Hilton in Perth this week.

Ms Girschik, a UWA public health student, is one of the inaugural recipients of a new category of grants, the PhD Top Up Scholarships, which specifically support the work of promising young PhD students.

She will receive $12,000 towards her PhD in which she is examining lifetime sleep quality as a risk factor for breast cancer.

Ms Girschik, who is working with a team at the Western Australian Institute of Medical Research, said there was some evidence to suggest that shift workers with poor sleep quality faced a higher risk of developing breast cancer, but not enough was known about why this was the case.

"This funding will allow me to work full time on my PhD for the next two years as well as travel to conferences to discuss my work," said Ms Girschik.

She said the scholarship had given her an added incentive to pursue a career in cancer epidemiology and to help make a difference to the impact of cancer on the community.

"I am very grateful to the Cancer Council for the opportunities this scholarship presents," said Ms Girschik.

Cancer Council Director of Education and Research Terry Slevin said the PhD Top Up Scholarships were a new initiative and part of the Cancer Council’s commitment to support cancer researchers at each step of their development, from students through to senior researchers at the cutting edge.

"Cancer research is a tough and competitive game, and those who dedicate their lives to finding out more about cancer and how to beat it need our support." said Mr Slevin.

Mr Slevin said donations and fundraising from generous individuals around the State allowed the Cancer Council to contribute much to cancer research in WA.

A recent report found that Cancer Council is the single largest state based funder of competitive cancer research grants in WA.

For further information or to arrange interviews contact:
Erin Broderick – Cancer Council WA – 043 999 0359

Sleep link to cancer?

WOMEN aged between 18 and 80 are asked to participate in a study about sleep in order to analyse the way lifestyle habits may increase or decrease the risk of breast cancer.

The WA Institute for Medical Research and the University of WA are looking for 40 participants to keep a sleep diary and fill in a short questionnaire. They will also be asked to wear a monitor on their wrist 24 hours a day for eight days.

The Sleep Validity Study is part of the Breast Cancer, Environment and Employment Study project.

To take part email jennifer.girschik@uwa.edu.au or call 9345 5412.

Medicine cost rise dumped

BUDGET plans to increase the $5.40 patient charge for subsidised prescription medicine have been quashed as the government tries to minimise the impact of budget cuts on voters’ pockets.

There has been intense speculation the government planned to increase the patient co-payment for medicines to raise several hundred million dollars as it strives to get the budget back into balance by 2013.

The Australian has learnt the proposal was quashed because of fears it could spark a voter backlash and lead pensioners to stop their medication.

With Cyclone Yasi and the Queensland floods fueling a surge in inflation and a proposal for a carbon tax that could increase power bills, the government would have faced political difficulties defending yet another hit on voters.

Pensioners pay $5.40 for subsidised medicines while other consumers pay up to $34.20. A $1 increase in both co-payments would have saved the government about $170 million.

But raising prescription charges can have consequences elsewhere, increasing hospitalisations and doctor visits as patients unable to afford the price rise stop using their drugs.

When the Howard government imposed a 24 per cent increase in medicine charges for pensioners in 2007, the use of some essential medicines fell by 1 per cent.

Anna Hynd, of the University of Western Australia’s School of Population Health, found in 2008 that the price hike resulted in increased use because pensioners could no longer afford medicines.

The opposition claimed yesterday that Labor’s selection promise to reimburse veterans may also have been jeopardised if it increased pharmaceutical charges in the budget.
Out of Africa experience for student nurse group

By PHIL HICKEY

TWENTY student nurses from five universities have returned from a two-week placement in Tanzanian hospitals and community health centres. Among those who took part in the life-changing program was Swanbourne resident Helen Cuthbert who is studying nursing at UWA. Helen was part of a three-person team, splitting their time between various hospitals and clinics.

“We were all at different stages in our courses, so we learnt a lot from each other,” Helen said.

“For me as a student it was really interesting to see how different the health priorities are. Everyday they are dealing with acutely ill adults and children suffering from infectious diseases such as Malaria and HIV which are obviously diseases which we rarely come across here.” Health Department chief nurse and midwifery officer Cath Stoddard and Global Health Alliance director Mark Jones, also led workshops with Tanzania’s chief nurse for a group of the medical community in Dar es Salam.

Professor Jones said his team worked closely with university supervisors to prepare the students for their experiences in Tanzania.

“The first day in Dar es Salam was quite overwhelming for many of the students,” Professor Jones said.

“I have been to Tanzania before but revisiting the health care facilities this time was a reminder of how lucky we are in WA.” Prof Jones said participating students should be commended for the work that they had undertaken during their clinical placements.

Health Minister Kim Hames said undertaking such a diverse clinical nursing placement would help the students become great nurses.
D’Arcy Holman likes to keep things in the family.

As a young medical student, Professor Holman, who holds UWA’s Chair in Public Health, shared his studies with his mother, Dr Janet Holman, was studying Medicine decades after completing a Bachelor of Arts at UWA.

“Janet was in fifth year when I was in first year,” Professor Holman said. “I went forward with great admiration for her capacity for life-long learning and knew that taking on a new and different professional qualification later in life was not something to fear.”

But he did not expect to be studying Law at the same time as his step-daughter, Gillian Bailey.

“Just as I inherited a hand-me-down skeleton and stethoscope, so Gill has had a few hand-me-down Law texts,” he said.

Professor Holman graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with First Class Honours last month from Murdoch University, receiving the Francis Burt Chambers Law Medal for the most outstanding academic performance. His step-daughter graduates this week with a LLB from UWA.

Just as Professor Holman’s mother inspired him, Gill’s family has inspired her. Her father, Stephen Bailey, is a senior corporate lawyer, and her mother, Belinda, married to Professor Holman, was also doing law studies at a graduate certificate level while D’Arcy and her daughter were studying for their LLB.

Professor Holman said he chose to study at Murdoch University because he wanted to keep his life as a student separate from his professional life in the UWA School of Population Health. “And with Gill studying Law at the same time, and living with us, it was good to avoid the complexities of being in the same classes,” he said.

He took seven years to complete his LLB and he and Gill finished at the same time.

“I don’t intend to seek registration as a legal practitioner,” he said. “But I’ve been using my legal knowledge for several years now, particularly in my work as a director on the board of HSF, as independent chair of the Road Safety Council of WA and in teaching health administration, including health law.”

Professor Holman led the Western Australian Utaa Linkage System for the first 12 years of its development and his Honours dissertation was on a closely related legal topic, Anonymity and medical research.

Gill has done a lot of work with Legal Aid and native title, including a voluntary position as a paralegal with a desert community. She is now a judge’s associate to Justice Christopher Pullin in the WA Supreme Court of Appeal.

“I’m considering going into insurance law and developing my advocacy skills in the future,” she said. “In the Court of Appeal, I get to see a bit of everything. Eventually, I expect to follow in the family footsteps with further studies.”

His season of autumn graduations is one of the biggest ever at UWA, with 3,137 graduands presented with their degrees.

The number includes 97 PhDs, nine professional doctorates and hundreds of Honours, Masters and other graduate degrees conferred.

The 10-night season began on 22 March and will conclude next Monday 11 April.

Continuing the trend, the Bachelor of Commerce has the biggest number of graduating students, 481. With science degrees offered across two faculties, with dozens of different majors, the various bachelor of Science make up 533 of the total number of graduands. They include degrees in adult sleep science, forensic science, infectious diseases, urban and regional planning, marine and coastal management, and petroleum geoscience.

UWA also swelled the ranks of professionals with 41 dentists, 191 medical doctors, 159 lawyers and 100 teachers graduating.